



2023 Summer Newsletter ☺

See the feedback from the first year of our mentoring scheme for care-experienced and/or estranged students at Cambridge University and catch up on our supported lodgings initiative.



Student Mentoring

17

Mentor & mentee pairings

17%

Of the care-experienced &/or estranged student population at Cambridge University

180

Volunteer support hours across **120** sessions

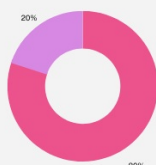
100%

Positive impact in **20** areas of wellbeing



15 OUT OF 17

Pairings continued for the duration of the academic year



80%

Of mentees said it had 'significantly impacted' the extent to which they felt emotionally supported (**20%** moderate impact)

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As these statistics suggest our mentoring 'pilot', alongside Cambridge University, has been hugely encouraging. Mentors met with mentees for one-to-one sessions on, typically, a weekly basis with activities including

meeting for coffee, dog walks, museum visits, cooking sessions, meals, and visiting local attractions (e.g. mini-golf and <https://www.dinkydoors.co.uk/>). Mentees also received advice from mentors on subjects such as making and receiving formal phone calls, budgeting, events management, housing, goal-setting and wellbeing. At the end of the programme we asked mentees and mentors to reflect on their experience.

Mentee feedback:

- “I really enjoy it. It’s been more helpful than words can describe.”. K, Foundation Year student.
- “My mentor was wonderful. I do feel like someone cares about the challenges I face and I feel a significant amount of support throughout my studies.” A, third year maths student.
- “It has been a beautiful experience; she tries to understand my uncertainties and anxieties about life” A, MPhil student

Mentor feedback:

- “She has enriched my life.” Nicky
- “It’s really lovely; I get as much out of it as I think she does. After she graduates we’re definitely going to stay in touch.” Alison

We celebrated the culmination of the year with a garden party kindly hosted by St Catharine's College (which even included a Concrete Rose themed cake). Given the success of this pilot, we are pleased to announce that the mentoring programme will continue into the next academic year where we will look to expand the offer to all care-experienced and estranged students alongside forced migrant students.



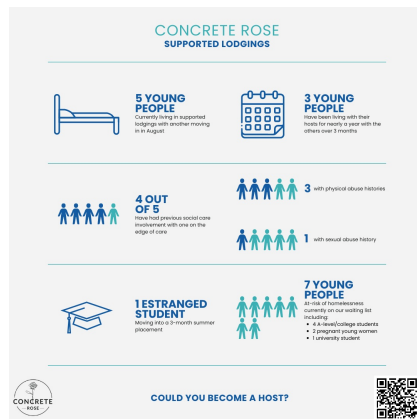
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Supported Lodgings

Five young people remain in supported lodgings arrangements with two young people rapidly approaching their first anniversary (marking one year since they moved in).

At the end of July we moved our first student into a supported lodgings arrangement. This is an extension of our supported lodgings initiative and recognises that many care-experienced and/or estranged students don't have the 'safety net' of a home to return to after they finish their course (and sometimes even outside of term-time). Resultantly, this can be an extremely vulnerable time especially without the financial security to move into rented accommodation. Our aim is to provide short-term, (3-month), stays that give students the buffer they need to get on their feet, find work and fulfil their potential.

Overall, the demand for our supported lodging options continues to significantly outweigh the number of available hosts. We are currently in the process of planning events for the autumn to help raise awareness of this need and to attract more hosts. If you, or your church/organisation, would consider hosting an such an event please contact: mike@concreterose.co.uk



Volunteer Role

We're looking to recruit an accounts administrator to support our core team and enable us to continue to deliver exceptional outcomes for young people. We estimate that this is a 3-4 hour commitment per month and includes:

- Maintaining account records
- Payroll
- Invoicing
- Interface with accountants

If you or anyone you know may be interested please contact mike@concreterose.co.uk // 07881926728



Youth work trauma training

In July team members Mike Farrington and Olivia Taylor delivered a session on "trauma-informed approaches in youth work". Around 20 youth workers from a range of different organisations attended the evening and feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

- "Overall it was a really great and informative evening. Definitely worth going to. You were able to create such a relaxed and safe space while talking about a very serious and

heavy topic."

- "I'd like to thank you for a great evening, informative, informal, fun (considering the subject) and extremely helpful! :-)"

Thanks to Romsey Mill for organising the event and to St Barnabas Church for hosting (including the most high-brow refreshments we've ever seen at a training session!)

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